

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-28 are pending. In the Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,459,974 to Baloch et al. Claims 5-28 were allowed. Claim 4 was indicated to be allowable if re-written in independent form. In the present paper, claim 4 is cancelled and its subject matter is incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a telephone interview on January 31, 2005. Unfortunately, the Examiner and Applicants could not resolve their disagreement regarding the applicability of the prior art of record to claims 1-3. Accordingly, Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims, or similar claims with like subject matter, in a continuation application.

Finally, a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed based on a search report issued by the International Examining Authority to a counterpart foreign application on December 28, 2004.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any matters must be addressed before this application is passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Applicants believe that no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65858-0026, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to the aforementioned account.

Dated: February 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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